

MINUTES

DAKOTA COUNTY PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 10, 2009

Conference Room L139, 14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley, Minnesota

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Paul J. Krause, Chair of the Physical Development Committee of the Whole, called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. Commissioners in attendance:

Commissioner Joseph A. Harris, District 1
Commissioner Kathleen Gaylord, District 2
Commissioner Thomas Egan, District 3
Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler, District 4
Commissioner Liz Workman, District 5
Commissioner Paul J. Krause, District 6
Commissioner Willis E. Branning, District 7

Also in attendance were:

Lynn Thompson, Division Director
Jay Stassen, Assistant County Attorney
Jeanne Nash Hoffmann, Administrator Coordinator

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

There were no new staff to introduce this month.

3. AUDIENCE

Chair Krause asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the committee on an item not on the agenda or if anyone wished to discuss an item on the Consent Agenda. No one came forward.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Gaylord, Second by Commissioner Workman, and passed on a 7-0 vote to approve the agenda for February 10, 2009, as presented.

5. CONSENT/INFORMATION AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Egan, Second by Commissioner Schouweiler, and passed on a 7-0 vote to approve the following consent items:

5.1 – Minutes Of The January 13, 2009 Meeting**5.2 – Authorization To Execute Planning Services Contract For Vermillion River Corridor Plan And Greenways Collaborative**

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2008 Park System Plan which promoted a collaborative network of greenways for recreation, habitat, and water quality improvement (Connected Places); and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Park System Plan also calls for protection of stream corridors in southern Dakota County, including the Vermillion River mainstem and significant tributaries, to improve water quality, restore habitat, and provide recreational opportunities as determined appropriate (Protected Places); and

WHEREAS, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources has awarded \$40,000 to Dakota County, for developing a comprehensive and integrated plan for the Vermillion River Corridor; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 08-588 (December 06, 2008), the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPO) and the Dakota County Board of Commissioners entered into a Joint Powers Agreement whereby the VRWJPO allocated \$40,000 towards the completion of the Vermillion River Corridor Plan; and

WHEREAS, \$35,000 of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Active Living grant awarded to Dakota County has been allocated for the Vermillion River Corridor Plan and Greenways Collaborative consulting services; and

WHEREAS, a Request for Proposal was distributed to prospective consulting firms for planning services for these two planning projects; and

WHEREAS, proposals from six planning and engineering teams were received by the established deadline; and

WHEREAS, four respective teams were interviewed by County staff on January 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the TKDA/U of M team proposed the lowest fee, County staff ranked them well below the other consulting firms in providing the required services for these projects; and

WHEREAS, the consulting team of Hoisington Koegler Group Inc. has been recommended by County staff as providing the best combination of skills, approaches and experience necessary for successfully completing these planning projects; and

WHEREAS, the estimated hourly rate, material expenses and mileage cost for Hoisington Koegler Group Inc. to provide these services is not to exceed \$95,000; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Parks and Open Space Department Capital Improvement Program includes \$95,000 for Vermillion River Corridor Plan and the Greenways Collaborative consulting services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute a contract with Hoisington Koegler Group Inc. for planning services related to the Vermillion River Corridor Plan and the Dakota County Greenways Collaborative, with a cost not to exceed \$95,000, and subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney's Office as to form.

5.3 – Authorization To Purchase Traffic And Maintenance Materials And Supplies

WHEREAS, the Transportation Department must purchase specialized traffic materials to maintain County roadways including; traffic marking paint, reflectorized glass beads, reflectorized sign face materials, sign blanks and hardware, barricade supplies, and traffic signal and control equipment; and

WHEREAS, road salt used for ice control must also be purchased in 2009 for the 2009/2010 winter season; and

WHEREAS, cooperation with the State of Minnesota and other political subdivisions to purchase traffic and maintenance materials commonly results in reduced workload, improved quality of materials and competitive pricing; and

WHEREAS, the approved 2009 Transportation Operating Budget includes funds in the amount of \$416,202 to purchase traffic equipment and materials including sign materials, pavement marking materials, and traffic signal control equipment; and

WHEREAS, the approved 2009 Transportation Operating Budget includes funds in the amount of \$881,265 to purchase up to 16,500 tons of road salt materials for the 2009/10 winter season, depending upon the amount of stockpiled material and weather conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Engineer to purchase items for operating the Dakota County Highway system including traffic control materials, traffic marking paint, glass beads, and sign and barricade materials in an amount not to exceed \$416,202, and road salt for the 2009/10 winter season in a total amount not to exceed \$881,265, from vendors

under contract with the State of Minnesota, quotes or bids, or through contracts with any other political subdivisions with which Dakota County has a joint purchasing agreement, whenever advantageous.

5.4 – Plat Commission Update – Information only; no action was requested.

6. REGULAR AGENDA

6.1 – Adoption Of County Project 97-65 Hastings Area Roadway System Study

Scott Peters, Transportation Planner, briefed the Committee on the study, the key findings and the recommendations that came out of the study. Scott outlined the future study areas which include the eastern minor arterial corridor, the principal arterial designation, and the northern minor arterial corridor. Scott responded to questions regarding specific alignments.

Motion by Commissioner Harris, Second by Commissioner Egan, and passed on a 7-0 vote to recommend that the County Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, to promote safe and efficient transportation throughout the County and region, Dakota County partnered with the City of Hastings to conduct an area roadway system study to examine transportation needs in Hastings and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Council population estimates for the Hastings area project an increase in area population from 20,000 in 2000 to 32,500 by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hastings Draft 2030 Comprehensive Plan identifies its future growth to occur south to 170th Street and west to Jacob Avenue; and

WHEREAS, as the area develops, the existing transportation system will have limited ability to accommodate for adequate levels of mobility of both local and regional trips; and

WHEREAS, representatives of Dakota County, City of Hastings, Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Marshan Township, Nininger Township and Vermillion Township have participated in an area roadway system study of potential solutions addressing future transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, the study process involved the public through public open houses and individual meetings with township officials; and

WHEREAS, the study was developed within a larger planning context, which includes land use development, development of a local roadway network, and study of potential improvements to the arterial highway system; and

WHEREAS, the study recommends preserving future right of way alignments for north-south continuity of CSAH 47 on the Jacob Avenue alignment at the time of development; and

WHEREAS, the study recommends preserving future right of way alignments for east-west continuity of 170th Street, between TH 316 and CSAH 47, at the time of development; and

WHEREAS, the study recommends a system of city collector streets to properly support the County roadway system; and

WHEREAS, the study recommends potential for future study in examining minor arterial opportunities east and north of the city contingent upon development or if safety problems arise; and

WHEREAS, the study recommends that the City of Hastings and Minnesota Department of Transportation are responsible for addressing the future configuration of TH 61/TH 316 on the south side of the city; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Engineer recommends adoption of the Hastings Area Roadway System Study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Hastings Area Roadway System Study, as presented to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on February 10, 2009.

6.2 – Approval Of Enhanced Scott-Dakota County Collaboration On Watershed Management

Water Resources Director David Swenson, and Vermillion River Watershed Manager Mark Zabel briefed the Committee on the collaboration between Dakota and Scott Counties. They reviewed the 4 options that were identified:

- Option 1 – Examine whether to redraw watershed boundaries
- Option 2 – Set goals for the Counties and SWCDs to share staff and resources
- Option 3 – Create a bi-county soil and water conservation district to serve all watershed entities
- Option 4 – Identify law and rule changes that lessen the burden on watershed entities.

Discussion was held and both staff responded to questions. They explained that work was starting on Options 2 and 4. They will return in February 2010 with a summary report.

Motion by Commissioner Gaylord, Second by Commissioner Branning and passed on a 7-0 vote to recommend that the County Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Dakota County operates a number of programs and activities on a collaborative basis with Scott County; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to extend past existing collaborative successes, Dakota and Scott Counties contracted with the Minnesota Department of Administration's Management Analysis and Development Division to evaluate watershed organization and management within the two counties; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this activity was to develop options for the county boards to consider for how the twelve local organizations currently with water management responsibilities in the two counties can more effectively and efficiently address their needs and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, in July 2008, the Management Analysis and Development Division produced a report of their findings along with four options for consideration: Option 1: Examine whether to redraw watershed boundaries, Option 2: Set goals for the Counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) to share staff and resources, Option 3: Create a bi-county soil and water conservation district to serve all watershed entities, and, Option 4: Identify law and rule changes that lessen the burden on watershed entities; and

WHEREAS, staff of Dakota and Scott Counties including the SWCDs, along with staff of the affected Watershed Management Organizations and Watershed Districts, have reviewed and discussed the assessment report and the four options identified in that report; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the counties not pursue Options 1 and 3 at this time, and requests County Board approval to pursue implementation efforts associated with Options 2 and 4; and

WHEREAS, these latter options allow for the development of approaches that return greater effectiveness and efficiencies without the need for significant structural changes or budgetary commitment at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the Water Resources Department to work with the Dakota SWCD, Scott County, Scott SWCD, and affected Watershed Management Organizations and Watershed Districts in the development of coordination and collaboration opportunities for water management as identified in Options 2 and 4 of the Watershed Organization Initial Assessment Report of July 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That by February 2010, the Water Resources Department shall provide a summary report to the County Board outlining the actions taken to implement Options 2 and 4, and identifying additional opportunities open to the County to further improve watershed organization and management.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lynn Thompson provided the Director's report. The Metropolitan Council has decided to proceed with restructuring the Council's approach to delivering general public dial-a-ride service in the metropolitan area. The County will be

asked to consider whether they want to operate the restructured program or whether they want the Council to continue to operate it. More information will be provided at the March 24 PDC meeting.

Lynn Thompson then briefed the Committee on the luncheon the County Board conducts semi-annually with Met Council Chair Peter Bell and others. The last luncheon was held in October 2008. Lynn informed the Committee that Chair Bell will be addressing the County Board at their meeting on March 17 regarding the Parks Foundation. A luncheon that day will not fit into schedules. Lynn will check with Mr. Bell to see if he wants to schedule a luncheon after that date or wait until fall 2009.

Lynn Thompson and Mark Krebsbach then briefed on the JAR Bridge (Bridge 5600). Washington County is awarding the contract today; no further action is needed for the historic review; no further permits are needed from the DNR. State funds will be used for removal even with staged removal to provide time to research the impacts on fishing and muscle inventory.

Lynn Thompson and Jay Stassen, Assistant County Attorney, then briefed on an issue with the Mississippi River Regional Trail in Inver Grove Heights and the alignment of the trail on the property purchased from the Rod and Gun Club and language in legislation that protects gun clubs from mitigation of landowners within 750'.

The PDC directed the County Attorney's office to negotiate the mitigation and risk issues with the City of Inver Grove Heights and the Gun Club. They requested drawings that indicate the distance of the trail within this 750' area. Staff were directed to return to the February 24, 2009 County Board meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislative update was provided to the Committees between meetings. During the update, discussion was held on whether the County Board wanted to take a different position with the Dan Patch Corridor – other than their resolution from October 2001. No further direction was given.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Workman, Second by Commissioner Harris, and passed on a 7-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeanne Nash Hoffmann
Administrative Coordinator